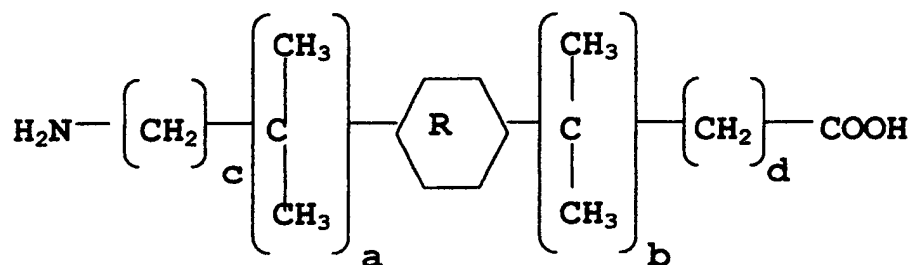


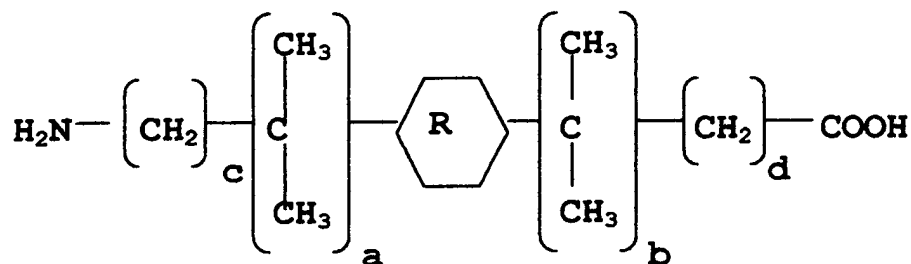
**Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A Rigid Ring Amino Acid having the [general] chemical structure



wherein R is cyclohexyl and having the parameters a, b, c, and d wherein the parameters a and b may be chosen to be 0 or 1 and wherein the parameters c and d are chosen to be [0 or] n where n is [a positive] an integer and further chosen such that for any integer value of c = n where n is greater than zero [non-zero] then d = 0 and for any integer value of d = n where n is greater than zero [non-zero] then c = 0 and wherein the Effective Methylene Length of the Rigid Ring Amino Acid is greater than 8 [5] and less than 18 and the Carbon Number of the Rigid Ring Amino Acid is greater than 11 [10] and less than 25.

2. (Currently amended) [A cyclohexyl based Hindered Rigid Ring Amino Acid with] A Rigid Ring Amino Acid having the chemical structure



wherein R is cyclohexyl and having the parameters a, b, c, and d  
wherein the parameters a or b or both are 1 and wherein the  
parameters c and d are chosen to be n where n is an integer and  
further chosen such that for any integer value of c = n where n  
is greater than zero then d = 0 and for any integer value of d =  
n where n is greater than zero then c = 0 and wherein the Rigid  
Ring Amino Acid has an Effective Methylene Length greater than 4  
and less than 18 and a Carbon Number greater than 9 and less  
than 25.

3. (Withdrawn) A polyamide comprising at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of Rigid Ring Amino Acids with an Effective Methylene Length greater than 5 and less than 27 and a Carbon Number greater than 11 and less than 34.

4. (Withdrawn) The polyamide of claim 3 wherein at least one Rigid Ring Amino Acid has an Effective Methylene Length greater than 8 and less than 18.

5. (Withdrawn) The polyamide of Claim 4 further including at least one cyclohexyl based Rigid Ring Amino Acid having an Effective Methylene Length greater than 8 and less than 18.

6. (Withdrawn) The polyamide of Claim 4 further including at least one Hindered Rigid Ring Amino Acid.

7. (Withdrawn) The polyamide of Claim 4 further including at least one second monomer selected from the group consisting of 6-aminohexanoic acid, 7-aminoheptanoic acid, 8-aminooctanoic

acid, 9-aminononoic acid, 10-aminodecanoic acid, 11-aminoundecanoic acid and 12-aminododecanoic acid.

8. (Withdrawn) The polyamide of Claim 5 further including at least one Asymmetric Rigid Ring Amino Acid Pair.

9. (Withdrawn) The polyamide of claim 8 wherein each of at least one Asymmetric Rigid Ring Amino Acid Pair have the same Effective Methylene Length.

10. (Withdrawn) The polyamide of Claim 9 wherein at least one Asymmetric Rigid Ring Amino Acid Pair consists of Hindered Rigid Ring Amino Acids.

11. (Withdrawn) The polyamide of claim 7 further including 11-aminoundecanoic acid.

12. (Withdrawn) The polyamide of claim 8 further including 11-aminoundecanoic acid.

13. (Withdrawn) The polyamide of claim 7 further including 12-aminododecanoic acid.

14. (Withdrawn) The polyamide of claim 8 further including 12-aminododecanoic acid.

15. (Withdrawn) A polyamide comprising at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of cyclohexyl based Hindered Rigid Ring Amino Acids with an Effective Methylene Length greater than 4 and less than 18.

16. (Withdrawn) The polyamide of claim 15 further including 6-aminohexanoic acid

17. (Withdrawn) The polyamide of claim 16 wherein at least one cyclohexyl based Hindered Rigid Ring Amino Acid has an Effective Methylene Length of 5.

18. (Withdrawn) The polyamide of claim 17 further including at least one Asymmetric Rigid Ring Amino Acid Pair each of which has an Effective Methylene Length of 5.

19. (Withdrawn) The polyamide of claim 17 further including at least one cyclohexyl based Rigid Ring Amino Acid with an Effective Methylene Length of 12.

20. (Withdrawn) The Rigid Ring Amino Acid of claim 1 wherein the Effective Methylene Length is greater than 8 and less than 18.

21. (Currently Amended) The Rigid Ring Amino Acid of claim 1 [2] wherein the parameter a or b or both a and b are 1.

22. (New claim dependent to claim 1) The Rigid Ring Amino Acid of claim 1 with an Effective Methylene Length of 12.

23. (New claim dependent to claim 2) The Rigid Ring Amino Acid of claim 2 with an Effective Methylene Length of 5 and a Carbon Number of 10.